

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 02024 122327Z

51

ACTION ACDA-10

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

COPENHAGEN 2107

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 2024

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: FLANK SECURITY: SPC MEETING APRIL 10

REF: STATE 81056

USNATO 1827 DTG 031810Z APR 75

C. USNATO 1996

SUMMARY: SPC ON APRIL 10 MOVED TOWARD CONSENSUS ON TURKISH PROPOSAL
THAT

ALLIES AGREE TO BELGIAN FORMULATION AS GUIDANCE TO AHG ON FLANK
SECURITY,

WHILE LEAVING OPEN THE QUESTIION WHETHER OR NOT THE ALLIES WOULD LATER
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 02024 122327Z

DEFINE THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS WHERE REDEPLOYMENT OF FORCES
WITHDRAWN FROM REDUCTIONS ARE WOULD DIMINISH FLANK SECURITY. HOWEVER,
ITALY AND THE UK REOPENED THE TREATMENT OF NON-DCIRCUMVENTION
IN THE DRAFT GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. U.S. REP (.9943) INFORMED SPC OF U.S. WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT BELGIAN FORMULATION, WHILE LEAVING OPEN QUESTION OF WHETHER THE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS SHOULD BE DEFINED OR NOT FOR SETTLEMENT BY THE ALLIES AT A LATER DATE (PER PARA 1, REF A).

2. GREEK REP (CORANTIS), FOR THE FIRST TIME, STATED GREECE'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE BELGIAN FORMULATION. HOWEVER, INSTEAD OF THE FOOTNOTE IN PARA 8, REF B (WHICH WOULD LEAVE OPEN WHETHER OR NOT GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS SHOULD BE SPECIFIED), HE PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING FOOTNOTE (UNOFFICIAL MISSION TRANSLATION): "THE ALLIES WILL NEED TO DECIDE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME THE QUESTION OF WHICH ARE THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS INTO WHICH THE REDEPLOYMENT OF WITHDRAWN FORCES WILL BE PROHIBITED." U.S. REP SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE U.S. POSITION, THE U.S. COULD NOT ACCEPT THIS FOOTNOTE.

3. BELGIAN REP (BURNY) SAID HE WISHED TO PROPOSE MERGING THE FOOTNOTE IN PARA 8, REF B, WITH THE ONE PROPOSED BY GREECE, ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES "THE ALLIES WILL NEED TO DECIDE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THESE GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS SHOULD BE DEFINED OR NOT, AND IF THEY ARE TO BE DEFINED, WHICH ARE THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS INTO WHICH THE REDEPLOYMENT OF WITHDRAWN FORCES WILL BE PROHIBITED.".

4. ITALIAN REP (SPINELLI) NOTED THAT ITALY HAD WITHDRAWN AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING ITS OWN FORMULATION, WHICH DEALT NOT ONLY WITH FLANK SECURITY, BUT ALSO WITH GENERAL NON-CIRCUMVENTION. SINCE THE ALLIES WERE NOT WORKING ON A FORMULATION FOR FLANK SECURITY, IT WAS NECESSARY TO REVISE THE BELGIAN FORMULATION, TO DELETE ITS REFERENCE TO NON-CIRCUMVENTION. THUS THE SPC SHOULD DELETE THE LAST PHRASE IN SECTION II OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE (REF C), I.E. FROM THE WORD "OR" TO THE END OF THE SENTENCE. THE WORD "EITHER" WOULD BE DELETED FROM THE SAME SENTENCE.

5. UK REP (BAILES), FOR FIRST TIME, STATED UK WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE BELGIAN FORMULATION, WITH A FOOTNOTE LEAVING OPEN
SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 02024 122327Z

WHETHER OR NOT GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS SHOULD BE DEFINED. HOWEVER, UK BELIEVED THAT IF ALLIES APPROVE THE GENERAL, BELGIAN, FORMULATION, THIS MUST ONLY BE IN THE CONTEXT OF FLANK SECURITY. THE UK WOULD NOT WANT THIS GENERAL FORMULATION TO APPLY TO TOO WIDE A FIELD. THUS THE UK WISHED THE FOLLOWING CHANGES IN THE LAST PHRASE IN SECTION II OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE (REF C): DELETE "EITHER": AND REVISE THE PHRASE ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION TO REPORT AS FOLLOWS "WHERE THESE FORCES WOULD CIRCUMVENT THE OBJECTIVE PURSUED IN THIS AGREEMENT OF ENHANCING STABILITY AND SECURITY IN EUROPE." THIS WOULD LIMIT THE NON-CIRCUMVENTION PART OF THE FORMULATION CLEARLY TO WITHDRAWN FORCES, REMOVING THE APPLICABILITY OF THE PHRASE "WHERE THERE ADDED PRESENCE" TO GENERAL NON-CIRCUMVENTION. COMMENT : UK INFORMALLY MADE SIMILAR SUGGESTION LAST FALL, WHICH WAS NOT PICKED UP IN SUCCEEDING VERSION OF SPC DRAFT GUIDELINES.

6. U.S. REP NOTED THAT PARA (D) OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE (REF C) REQUESTED THE AHG TO IDENTIFY THE FORMULATION AS THE ALLIED POSITION

ON FLANK SECURITY. HE NOTED THAT PARA (E) OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE REQUESTED THE AHG TO MAKE CLEAR THAT IN ADDITION, THE ALLIES WOULD MAKE PROPOSALS IN DUE COURSE ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. REGARDED THE FORMULATION AS A FLANK FORMULATION, AND HE THOUGHT THAT PARAS (D) AND (E) OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE MADE THAT CLEAR.

7. BELGIAN REP ASKED IF ITALIAN REP DID NOT THINK THAT PARA (3) OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE COVERED THE ITALIAN CONCERN. ITALIAN REP SAID IT DID NOT, AND THAT THE SPC SHOULD MAKE THE FORMULATION CONSISTENT WITH PARA (E). TURKISH REP (GUR) ASKED IF ITALIAN REP WAS SATISFIED BY THE UK PROPOSAL. ITALIAN REP SAID HE WAS NOT, AND THAT ITALY WOULD STRONGLY PREFER DELETION OF THE PHRASE ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION IN SECTION II OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE.

8. COMMENT: THE ITALIAN PROPOSAL TO DELETE THE PHRASE ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION IN SECTION II OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE WOULD MAKE THE DRAFT GUIDANCE CLEANER, AND MORE CLEARLY TO FLANK FORMULATION. THE ITALIAN PROPOSAL WOULD SEEM PREFERABLE TO THE UK PROPOSAL, WHICH WOULD MAKE THE GUIDANCE UNNECESSARILY COMPLEX. THE PROBLEM WITH BOTH PROPOSALS IS THAT THEY REOPEN A COMPROMISE MADE LAST FALL WHICH ENABLED THE NETHERLANDS TO SUPPORT THE BELGIAN FORMULATION.
SECRET

PAGE 04 NATO 02024 122327Z

LATION. THE NETHERLANDS HAD ORIGINALLY WANTED GUIDANCE TO THE AHG ON FLANK SECURITY AND NON-CIRCUMVENTION AT THE SAME TIME, IN ORDER NOT TO DOWNGRADE THE IMPORTANCE OF GENERAL NON-CIRCUMVENTION. THE PHRASE ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION IN SECTION II OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE IS A REMNANT OF THE ORIGINAL NETHERLANDS PROPOSAL. THE DUTCH WANTED THIS PHRASE LAST FALL AS A REMINDER OF THE IMPORTANCE OF NON-CIRCUMVENTION, ALTHOUGH THEY AGREED TO DELETION OF ALL THE OTHER REFERENCES TO NON-CIRCUMVENTION, AND THEY AGREED TO PARAS (D) AND (E) OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE WHICH ESTABLISHED THAT THIS WAS A POSITION ON FLANK SECURITY AND NOT NON-CIRCUMVENTION. IF THIS IS STILL AN IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR THE DUTCH, PRESSURE TO DELETE THE REFERENCE TO NON-CIRCUMVENTION IN SECTION II OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE MIGHT CAUSE THE DUTCH TO DEFEND MORE STRONGLY THEIR BRACKETED LANGUAGE IN PARA (D) ("WHEN SO INSTRUCTED BY THE COUNCIL"), WHICH WOULD PLACE A HOLD IN THE COUNCIL ON TRANSMISSION OF THE GUIDANCE TO THE AHG.

9. MISSION NOTED THAT THE DUTCH HAVE LONG SUPPORTED THE BELGIAN FORMULATION, AND U.S. POSITIONS ON FLANK SECURITY, UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FORMULATION WOULD CONTAIN A REFERENCE TO NON-CIRCUMVENTION. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST, IF THE DUTCH AT THE NEXT MEETING STILL WANT REFERENCE TO NON-CIRCUMVENTION, THAT THE U.S. SEEK TO ACCOMMODATE THEM IF THIS IS NO LONGER A PROBLEM FOR THE DUTCH, WE SUGGEST THAT THE

U.S. SUPPORT THE ITALIAN RATHER THAN THE UK PROPOSAL REGARDING
THE PHRASE ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION IN SECTION II. END COMMENT

10. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION REQUESTS GUIDANCE, PRIOR TO THE
NEXT MEETING ON FLANK SCURITY ON MONDAY APRIL 21, ON:
THE BELGIAN FOOTNOTE ON THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS PER PARA 3
ABOVE WE RECOMMENT ACCEPTANCE) AND ON THE PHRASE ON NON:CIRCUMVENTION
IN SECTION II, REF C, PER PARA 9 ABOVE.
BRUCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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